

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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TAGS: MILI, US, CA

SUBJ: CNEWS/POLEVAULT

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS APRIL 18, EXTAFF
DEFENSE RELATIONS OFFICIALS (MARSHALL AND LEGG) RAISED
PROSPECTIVE CLOSING OF CNEWS STATIONS BY US ON JULY 1.
OF THE SIX STATIONS, GOC HAS NO INTEREST IN THREE AND
IT WAS AGREEABLE TO THEIR CLOSING ON SCHEDULE. WITH
RESPECT TO THREE OTHERS -- GOOSE BAY, HOPEDALE AND
RESOLUTION ISLAND -- GOC WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE CLOSING
DELAYED FOR TWO MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER 1. EXTAFF OFFICIALS
SAID THAT WHEN CLOSING OF CNEWS FIRST MENTIONED TO THEM
VERBALLY IN FEBRUARY, THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
EXPRESSED THEIR FEELING THAT A MINIMUM OF 18 MONTHS' NOTICE
WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION GIVEN
THE NEED TO MAKE BUDGETARY PROVISION AS WELL AS
LOGISTICS AND PERSONNEL PROBLEMS. GOC AGENCIES
"HUSTLING" SINCE FEBRUARY AND HAVE HAD TO SECURE
UNBUDGETED FUNDING TO FINANCE TRANSITIONAL ACTIVITIES.
GIVEN THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT OF THESE STATIONS AND
THE NEED TO MAKE LOGISTICS ARRANGEMENTS A FULL SEASON
BEFORE THE SEASON IN WHICH THE MATERIALS ARE REQUIRED,
THEY CONSIDER THE TWO-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE US
DEPARTURE TO BE ESSENTIAL. THEY THEREFORE URGE US
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AGREEMENT TO THIS EXTENSION NOTING THAT DECISION

REQUIRED URGENTLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT 60-DAY
NOTICE TO OPERATORS REQUIRED UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS.

2. POLCOUNS INQUIRED IF GOC WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE
THE FUNDING FOR THE EXTENSION. EXTAFF OFFICIALS NOTED
THAT GOC HAS ALREADY HAD TO SECURE EXTRA FUNDING AND
WOULD HOPE THAT US WOULD CONTINUE ITS FUNDING FOR THE
TWO-MONTH PERIOD. THEY STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE
IMPORTANT THING AT THE MOMENT IS TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT
FROM THE US TO CONTINUE THE OPERATIONS AT THE THREE
STATIONS. MARSHALL CALLED AFTER MEETING TO REITERATE
THIS LAST POINT AND TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT IF
THE US IS, IN FACT, UNABLE TO SECURE THE FUNDING
IN THE INTERESTS OF SHARING THE BURDEN OF ENSURING
A SMOOTH TRANSITION IN A COOPERATIVE MANNER, THAT
THIS WOULD NOT CLOSE THE DOOR AND DOOM THE STATIONS
TO CLOSE JULY 1 BEFORE THE GOC CAN FINALIZE ITS
ARRANGEMENTS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT COME RIGHT OUT

AND SAY SO, EXTAFF OFFICIALS GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT
GOC ANXIETY TO KEEP U.S. OPERATING UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 1 MIGHT WELL BE TRANSLATED INTO GOC FINANCING
THEREOF IF US PRESSES. THEY CLEARLY HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT US,
IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WIDER RELATIONSHIP, WILL FIND
THE MEANS TO BE ACCOMMODATING.

4. ALTHOUGH SAGLEK IS ONE OF THE CNEWS STATIONS IN WHICH
GOC HAS NO FURTHER INTEREST, CANADIAN DEFENSE
AUTHORITIES ARE STILL STUDYING QUESTION RAISED AT LAST PJBD
MEETING AS TO WHETHER GOC WILL HAVE NEED AFTER JULY 1 FOR
SAGLEK TACAN FACILITY FOR MARITIME USE. ANSWER TO THIS
QUESTION SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. PORTER

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